

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing pages include the following:

Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Remarks:

Applicant has carefully studied the Notice of Allowability mailed 01/06/2005, having a due date of 04/06/2005, and all references cited therein. The amendment appearing above and these explanatory remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Notice of Allowability.

Applicant responds to the outstanding Notice of Allowability by numbered paragraphs that correspond to the paragraph numbering employed by the Office, to ensure full response on the merits to each finding of the Office.

1. Applicant thanks the Office for making the corrections to paragraph 46, line 5 of the specification and to claim 2, line 3.

2. Applicant acknowledges that the numeral "133" is not shown in the drawings. However, the appropriate Figure for the insertion of numeral "133" is Fig. 12D and not Fig. 12C in that the specification refers to inverted stopper assembly and said inverted stopper assembly is depicted in Fig. 12D. The reference numeral "133" is therefore added to Fig. 12D and paragraph [0126] is amended as required.

The amendments to the paragraphs that describe the drawing figures might at first glance appear to be extensive, but the change is actually quite minor. The original brief description of Fig. 12A is now a brief description of Fig. 12B, and so on. More particularly, Fig. 12A in the specification (see paragraph [0122]) was identified in the Brief Description of the Drawings as being Fig. 12F. Accordingly, the description of Fig. 12A as filed is deleted and the description of said Fig. 12F as filed is inserted therefore as the new description of Fig. 12A. The brief description of Fig. 12A at paragraph [0075] as filed is then bumped down to become the new brief description of paragraph 12B. The brief description of Fig. 12B at paragraph [0076] as filed is bumped down to become the new brief description of paragraph 12C, and so on to the end of the Brief Description of the Drawings.

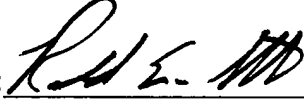
3. Applicant acknowledges the Offices statements of reasons for allowance.

4. Applicant agrees that the art made of record and not relied upon is pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

5. Applicant thanks the Office for its careful examination of this important patent application.

Very respectfully,

SMITH & HOPEN

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Dated: February 9, 2005

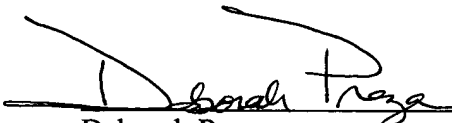
pc: Mr. Paul R. Hickert

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

(37 C.F.R. 1.10)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Rule 312 Amendment, including Introductory Comments, Amendments to the Specification, Amendments to the Drawings and Remarks, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," mailing Label No. EV624411470US, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 9, 2005.

Dated: February 9, 2005


Deborah Preza

